

# SHOCK

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CHILLING TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE



**EVIL RETURNS**

**GHOSTLY  
DESTROYER**

**THE LAND OF  
LIVING MYTHS**

**FANGS OF  
THE FIEND**

PLUS OTHER HORRIFYING  
TALES OF THE SUPERNATURAL

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# SHOCK

CHILLING TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE

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# EVIL RETURNS



RAINED OUT! WELL, SWEETHEART—  
GUESS **THIS** TAKES CARE OF YOUR  
HUNCH THAT WE'D FIND OURSELVES A  
FRONT PAGE STORY FOR THE "DISPATCH"  
IN THE ZOO!



**H**ave you ever looked into the tawny eyes  
of a caged tiger—and known the  
meaning of **FEAR**? Have you caught, within  
these savage depths, a hint of why tigers stalk  
at **NIGHT**—spreading terror in their wake?  
Then you'll understand the unholy pair that  
scorned both time and distance in their  
fiendish search for **REVENGE**! Yes, one of  
them was a **TIGER**—and the other—A **ONCE-  
LIVING CREATURE** from out of **THE UNKNOWN**!

DON'T LET A LITTLE LIGHTNING GET YOU  
DOWN, SANDRA! IT NEVER HITS TWICE  
IN THE SAME PLACE—AND IT CERTAINLY  
JOKED **ME** THE DAY YOU SIGNED ON  
AS A CUB REPORTER!

DON—TELL ME IF YOU  
**SEE** ANYTHING DOWN  
THERE—**AMONG  
THE TIGERS!**



IN THE RIPPING GLARE  
OF ANOTHER  
LIGHTNING BOLT...



AT THE INSTANT DON  
RAISES HIS CAMERA...

**THIS I WANT  
A PICTURE  
OF!**

DON—GET BACK!  
**IT'S JUMPING  
OUT!**



AS THE PHANTOM FLITS THROUGH  
THE DRIPPING SHRUBBERY...

GREAT GUNS! NO **HUMAN**  
COULD HAVE MADE A LEAP  
LIKE THAT—BUT WHAT  
**IS IT?**

ASK **THE  
TIGERS—THEY  
SEEM TO  
KNOW!**





LIKE UNLEASHED JUNGLE DEMONS...

YOU'RE RIGHT, SANDRA! THEY SEEM TO WANT TO FOLLOW HIM!

WELL, FAR BE IT FROM ME TO COME BETWEEN OLD FRIENDS! I'M LEAVING!



AN HOUR LATER -- IN THE "DISPATCH" CITY ROOM...

NOT A BAD STORY FOR A RAINY AFTERNOON! DID YOU LUCKY PEOPLE MANAGE TO GET A PICTURE?

YEP--A TURKEY! I WAS A TRIFLE TOO LATE WITH MY FLASH-- AND HERE'S ALL I CAUGHT!



TOO BAD -- BUT OUR READERS WOULDN'T SWALLOW A STORY LIKE THIS WITHOUT PROOF! HEY, GILLIGAN -- COME HERE!



GILLIGAN, MAYBE I WAS A LITTLE PIG-HEADED ABOUT THAT STORY YOU TURNED IN THIS MORNING -- ON THE CHARACTER WHO JUMPED FROM THE FREIGHT HATCH OF A TRANS-EMPIRE PLANE JUST BEFORE IT LANDED! TELL SANDRA AND DON WHERE THAT PLANE WAS FROM, GILLIGAN!

WEIRD COINCIDENCE, EH?

INDIA!



IT WAS WEIRD ENOUGH -- BUT NO COINCIDENCE! THAT THING WE SAW IN THE ZOO ARRIVED THIS MORNING -- AND I'VE GOT A FLUTTERY NOTION IT WAS JUST HIDING OUT THERE -- UNTIL TONIGHT!

SOMETHING TELLS ME WE COULD BOTH USE A CUP OF COFFEE!



TEN MINUTES LATER...

THANKS FOR THE TIP, MIKE -- BUT FRANKLY, I DON'T SEE A STORY IN A TRUCK DRIVER ASKING YOU FOR AN ADDRESS -- EVEN IF IT WAS THE FLETCHER ADAMS MANSION!

HE WAS A FOREIGNER -- WALKING ALONG BAREFOOT! AND WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT A TRUCK?



I ASSUMED HE HAD ONE! DIDN'T YOU MENTION A MOTOR, OR A TURBINE, OR SOMETHING?

NOT TURBINE -- TURBAN! AROUND THE HEAD!



**NOW YOU'RE LATCHING ON! WHEN A CHARACTER COMES ALL THE WAY FROM INDIA TO LOOK UP A WEALTHY BIG GAME HUNTER-- THAT'S *NEWS!***



**THOSE WHACKY NEWSPAPER PEOPLE-- YOU'D THINK I STUCK 'EM WITH A PIN!**

**COULD BE-- BUT THEY STUCK *YOU* WITH THE CHECK!**



**SOON AFTERWARD...**

**OF COURSE-- IT COULD BE *ANOTHER* HINDU!**

**I'D LIKE TO THINK SO, TOO-- IF I DIDN'T HAPPEN TO KNOW THAT FLETCHER ADAMS' HUNTING EXPEDITIONS WERE CHIEFLY FOR *TIGERS!***



**MR. ADAMS? WE'RE FROM THE "*DISPATCH*," AND--**

**HA-- I *THOUGHT* THE NEWSPAPERS WOULD FIND IT AN INTERESTING STORY! AFTER ALL-- IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT AN ENTIRE STAFF OF SERVANTS WALK OUT IN A *PANIC!***



**SOMETHING... *SCARED* THEM?**

**INCREDIBLE, ISN'T IT? AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, THEY SAY IT MOVES AND MAKES NOISES-- *MY FAVORITE TIGER!***



**THOSE EYES! DON-- DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE THEM?**

**RELAX, SANDRA! THEY *DO* REMIND ME OF THOSE GLARING THINGS WE SAW IN THE ZOO, BUT AFTER ALL-- *THESE EYES* ARE JUST GLASS!**



**NOT AT ALL! AS A MATTER OF FACT-- THEY HAPPEN TO BE GENUINE *CAT'S-EYES!***

**THEY'RE *WHAT?***



CAT'S-EYES -- A GEM! DON'T LET THAT GLOW FROM THE TIGER SKIN ALARM YOU -- I'M CONVINCED IT'S MERELY A FORM OF PHOSPHORESCENT MOLD! ABOUT THE GEMS -- **THEY WERE PART OF MY ADVENTURE IN THAT STRANGE LITTLE VILLAGE IN BENGAL -- THE NIGHT I MET BOTH THIS TIGER AND -- WELL, THE DEVIL KNOWS WHERE HE IS!**



WHO?

JUST A NATIVE I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT MANY A NIGHT SINCE-- **A STRANGE-LOOKING CREEP IN A TURBAN!**

BEFORE WE JUMP TO ANY CONCLUSIONS-- LET'S HEAR THE WHOLE STORY! WHAT **HAPPENED** THAT NIGHT, MR. ADAMS?



I GAVE UP ANY IDEA OF BAGGING A TIGER WHEN WE REACHED A GROUP OF DOME-SHAPED HUTS! THEY WERE DIFFERENT FROM ANY I HAD SEEN IN INDIA, EACH WITH A CAT'S-EYE SET ABOVE THE LOW DOORWAY -- BUT **THAT** DIDN'T EXPLAIN MY GUNBEARER'S TERROR! I HAD JUST POCKETED TWO OF THE GEMS WHEN I NOTICED HIM -- **THIS TALL, BEARDED FELLOW IN THE TURBAN!**

AND... WAS THERE A TIGER NEARBY?



STRANGELY ENOUGH -- THAT OCCURRED TO **ME!** THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HIS STRANGE, GROWLING VOICE -- WHEN HE TOLD ME THERE WERE **NO** TIGERS AROUND -- THAT MADE ME CERTAIN THERE **WAS** ONE! SURE ENOUGH, THE MOMENT HE SLIPPED INTO THE DARKNESS -- **I SAW IT!**



YES, A TIGER -- GUSTENING IN THE MOONLIGHT -- AND I KILLED IT WITH A SINGLE CARELESS SHOT! A STRANGE STORY -- BUT I'D HARDLY CONSIDER IT **SUPERNATURAL** MERELY BECAUSE THAT NATIVE **YANISHED** -- AND DIDN'T TURN UP AGAIN!

HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT I SAW QUITE A BIT OF INDIA DURING THE WAR -- AND THAT PLACE YOU DESCRIBE, WITH THE CAT'S-EYE TALISMANS, HAPPENS TO HAVE BEEN A **NATIVE GRAVEYARD!**

AS FOR THE MYSTERIOUS NATIVE-- HE WAS TURNED UP AGAIN! WE SAW HIM TODAY IN THE TIGER DEN AT THE ZOO -- AND HE GROWLED JUST LIKE --

OHH!

GRRRR!



GREAT GUNS! THAT ISN'T JUST THE SNARL OF A TIGER -- IT'S THE WAY **HE** SOUNDED -- **WHEN HE SPOKE!**

BRACE YOURSELF FOR **ANOTHER** JOLT, ADAMS! **HE'S HERE!**



I'M NOT SURE HE'LL BE SATISFIED WITH RECOVERING **THAT**, ADAMS -- BUT IF YOU'RE SMART -- YOU'LL LET HIM HAVE IT!

HE'S NOT GOING TO GET IT -- NOT THE TIGER SKIN I HUNTED YEARS TO FIND! I DON'T CARE WHAT HE IS OR WHAT HE CAN DO -- **I'M NOT BACKING DOWN!**



**THEN -- WITH HEADLONG FURY...**

**ARRAGH!**



**SLOWLY, THE GLOWING TIGER SKIN RIPPLES WITH AN EERIE, HEAVING MOTION -- THE STIRRING OF AN AROUSED JUNGLE DEMON!**

IT'S TAKING SHAPE, DON -- IT'S **ALIVE!**



THAT'S MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR ADAMS! HE'S **DEAD**, SANDRA -- AND THAT CREEP IN THE TURBAN SEEMS TO HAVE THE SAME IDEA IN MIND FOR **US!**



**SUDDENLY -- WITH TERROR CLOSING IN FROM BOTH SIDES...**

**DON!** THERE'S SOMETHING **ELSE** -- CROUCHING NEAR THE STAIRS!



I **THOUGHT** IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO SEE WHAT WENT ON HERE!

**MIKE -- KEEP AWAY FROM THAT THING!**







FOR A TERRIBLE SPLIT SECOND, THE TIGER SEEMS TO HANG INERTLY - ITS CLAWS RAKING THE GLOOM!



BUT IN  
THE NEXT  
INSTANT—

**CRACK!**

**YAAAGH!**



WELL—THERE'S ONE LESS  
GHOUL HAUNTING THE BURIAL  
MOUNDS BACK IN BENGAL!



YOU MEAN THE  
CURRENT  
CONDUCTED  
BY THE  
HANDCUFFS  
ON HIS WRISTS  
FINISHED  
HIM OFF?

THE **RIGHT** WRIST—  
AND IT'S A GOOD THING  
I REMEMBERED THE  
SCAR THAT SHOWED UP  
IN THE PHOTOGRAPH  
I SNAPPED AT THE ZOO!  
YOU'LL SEE **WHY** WHEN  
WE EXAMINE THE THING  
THAT COST ADAMS HIS  
LIFE—**THE SKIN OF A  
DEMON TIGER!**



**A DEMON TIGER**—OUTSTRETCHED ON THE  
FLOOR WITH ITS INFERNAL GLOW DIMMED FOREVER!

REMEMBER ADAMS SAYING HE KILLED THE TIGER  
WITH ONE CARELESS SHOT? THERE'S THE HOLE  
MADE BY HIS SHOT—AND HERE'S **MINE**—  
**BOTH ON THE FOREPAW CORRESPONDING  
TO THE PHANTOM'S  
SCARRED WRIST!**



**CATS** ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THE **FAMILIAR  
SPIRITS** OF SUPERNATURAL BEINGS! IN THIS  
CASE, IT WAS A **TIGER**—A BEAST WHICH  
SHARED NIGHTS OF TERROR WITH ITS  
PHANTOM MASTER—AND **ALSO**  
SHARED THE PHANTOM'S ONLY  
VITAL SPOT! IT WAS THE  
SCARRED WRIST—MARKING  
AN INJURY SUSTAINED WHILE  
THE PHANTOM **LIVED!**  
AFTER YEARS OF STALKING  
IN THE JUNGLE WITH THE  
TIGER—THE PHANTOM  
HUNTED **ALONE** AFTER  
ADAMS LEFT INDIA WITH  
HIS TROPHY!



HUNTED  
WHAT,  
DON?

**ADAMS!** AND YOU SAW  
**WHY** TONIGHT—WHEN THE  
TIGER TOOK SHAPE AT THE VERY  
INSTANT THE MAN WHO  
KILLED IT **DIED!**



**AN HOUR LATER...**

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH  
YOU PEOPLE? I TELL YOU  
I HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL  
FOR YOU TONIGHT—SOME-  
THING I GET FROM FAR  
AWAY—AND YOU GET  
WHITE AS A NAPKIN!

JUST A MATTER OF  
PRONUNCIATION, PETE!  
WHILE THESE TWO ARE  
BROODING ABOUT **TURBAN**  
—I'LL HAVE SOME  
OF THAT  
**TERRAPIN!**



*The End*

# The BURIED CURSE



IN A QUIET VALLEY... TEN MILES FROM THE NEAREST VILLAGE...



YOU INTERESTED IN THE HOUSE, YOUNG FELLOW... OR THE GIRL WHO'S LIVING IN IT?



FACT IS, I WANT TO GET SOME YOUNG TREES PLANTED--AND THE RIGHT WAY IS TO GET THE ROOTS DEEP!

I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU WEAR YOURSELF OUT, FATHER! ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE FEELING WELL?



NOTHING WRONG WITH ME THAT A PITCHER OF COLD LEMONADE CAN'T FIX! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO--SCARE LESLIE AWAY?

NOT A CHANCE--I'M GOING TO STICK AROUND AND TAKE DIANA TO THE MOVIES TONIGHT!



AN HOUR LATER--IN THE STILLNESS OF EARLY DUSK...

FRANKLY, DIANA--I'VE BEEN GIVING A LOT OF THOUGHT TO YOU AND YOUR FATHER LIVING OUT HERE IN SUCH A REMOTE SPOT! IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN--BUT ALL THE WHILE I WAS BUILDING THE HOUSE, I FELT SOMETHING LURKING HERE--LIKE A JINX I COULDN'T SHAKE OFF!

YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING A GHOST? HEAVENS, THIS PLACE IS NEW LESLIE--LET'S GIVE IT TIME!



SUDDENLY--

GOOD LORD... FATHER!



YOU'RE HARDLY ABLE TO STAND! WHAT'S WRONG?

HIT ME--ALL OF A SUDDEN! GOT A RAGING FEVER--BETTER PHONE--DR NICHOLS!



A HALF-HOUR LATER--

I JUST MANAGED TO REACH THE DOCTOR, HONEY--AND HE'S DRIVING OUT IMMEDIATELY!

THANK GOODNESS FOR THAT! FATHER'S LOST CONSCIOUSNESS--AND I DON'T LIKE IT!



SOON AFTERWARD--

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PULL ANY PUNCHES, DR. NICHOLS! WE KNOW IT'S SERIOUS--BUT WHAT IS IT?

WISH I COULD SAY--BUT I'M COMPLETELY BAFFLED! I HAVEN'T EVEN HEARD OF ANYTHING THIS VIOLENT--NOT SINCE THE SO-CALLED CURSE FEVER THAT RAGED AROUND HERE OVER A HUNDRED YEARS AGO!





WHATEVER IT WAS - SCORES OF PEOPLE DIED WITHIN TWO DAYS... **AND EVERY ONE OF THE VICTIMS SAW A HIDEOUS PHANTOM JUST BEFORE THE END!** ONLY A FEW PERSONS GATHERED AT THE DEATH-BEDS SAW THE THING...AND AS IT TURNED OUT... **THEY WERE STRICKEN WITHIN A FEW HOURS!** WE'RE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, AND CAN LEAVE OUT SUPERSTITION **IN THIS CASE...** BUT I'M AFRAID THE RESULT'S GOING TO BE THE SAME!



YOU MEAN...FATHER ISN'T GOING TO LIVE?

AFRAID NOT, DIANA! I'D SUGGEST A HOSPITAL - BUT THE PLAIN FACT IS THAT HE'S SINKING FAST!



IT'S TOUGH SWEETHEART... BUT YOU'VE GOT TO RE-SIGN YOURSELF TO IT!

YOU'VE BOTH BEEN EXPOSED TO THE FEVER... SO I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU STREPTOMYCIN SHOTS BEFORE I LEAVE! THAT SHOULD KNOCK OUT ANY GERMS YOU MAY HAVE PICKED UP!



15 MIN HOUR LATER...

I...I HAVEN'T GOT LONG, DIANA! GLAD YOU AND LESLIE ARE WITH ME... BUT WHO ELSE IS HERE?

THERE CAN'T BE ANYONE BUT US, FATHER... DR. NICHOLS LEFT SOME TIME AGO!



THEN...WITH GLAZED EYES STARING INTO THE GLOOM...

YE GODS--IT'S HORRIBLE! IT'S WATCHING ME...IT KNOWS I'M GOING TO DIE!



PLEASE, FATHER...FOR YOUR OWN SAKE - TRY TO BE TRANQUIL!

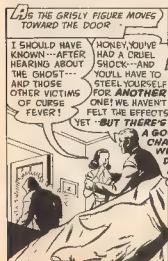
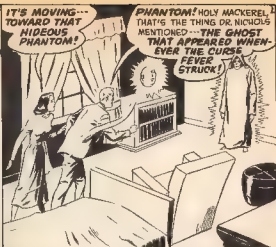
GREAT GUNS!



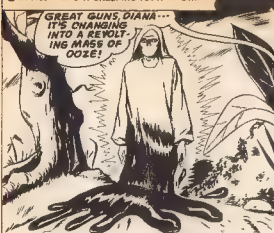
OH! LESLIE...WHAT IS IT?

LORD KNOWS...BUT THERE'S A WEIRD LIGHT BREAKING AROUND YOUR FATHER'S BED!





**SLOWLY...LIKE A CREEPING FLOW OF EVIL...**



**GREAT GUNS, DIANA...  
IT'S CHANGING  
INTO A REVOLT-  
ING MASS OF  
OOZE!**

**IN THE NEXT HORROR-LADEN MINUTE...**



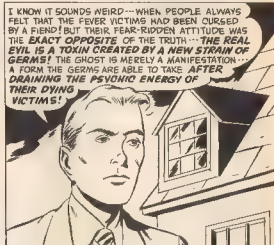
**FOR THE LOVE OF  
PETE...DON'T FORCE  
YOURSELF TO LOOK  
AT THE LOATH-  
SOME THING!**

**BUT I'M TRYING TO  
FIND OUT--WHY IS  
IT SQUIRMING INTO  
THE GROUND  
AT THIS  
VERY  
SPOT?**

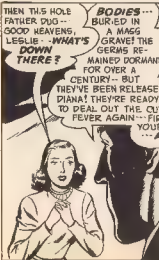


**GOOD LORD, WHAT KIND  
OF MONSTER ARE WE UP  
AGAINST --A GHOSTLY  
FIEND ONE MOMENT--  
AND A SHAPELESS  
TERROR THE NEXT!**

**DIANA WE'VE GOT TO  
FACE THE TRUTH--THAT  
THING ISN'T ACTUALLY  
WHAT IT SEEMS TO BE!  
IT ISN'T A MONSTER--  
IT ISN'T A GHOST--  
IT'S GERMS!**



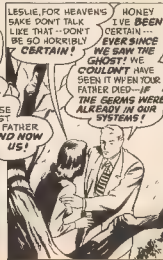
**I KNOW IT SOUNDS WEIRD--WHEN PEOPLE ALWAYS  
FELT THAT THE FEVER VICTIMS HAD BEEN CURSED  
BY A FIEND! BUT THEIR FEAR-RIDDEN ATTITUDE WAS  
THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF THE TRUTH--THE REAL  
EVIL IS A TOXIN CREATED BY A NEW STRAIN OF  
GERMS! THE GHOST IS MERELY A MANIFESTATION--  
A FORM THE GERMS ARE ABLE TO TAKE AFTER  
DRAINING THE PSYCHIC ENERGY OF  
THEIR DYING  
VICTIMS!**



**THEN THIS HOLE  
FATHER DUG--  
GOOD HEAVENS,  
LESLIE--WHAT'S  
DOWN  
THERE?**

**BODIES...  
BURIED IN  
A MASS  
GRAVE! THE  
GERMS RE-  
MAINED DORMANT  
FOR OVER A  
CENTURY-- BUT  
THEY'VE BEEN RELEASED,  
DIANA! THEY'RE READY  
TO DEAL OUT THE CURSE  
FEVER AGAIN--FIRST**

**YOUR FATHER  
...AND NOW  
US!**



**LESLIE, FOR HEAVEN'S  
SAKE DON'T TALK  
LIKE THAT--DON'T  
BE SO HORRIBLY  
CERTAIN!**

**HONEY  
I'VE BEEN  
CERTAIN...  
EVER SINCE  
WE SAW THE  
GHOST! WE  
COULDN'T HAVE  
SEEN IT WHEN YOUR  
FATHER DIED--IF  
THE GERMS WEREN'T  
ALREADY IN OUR  
SYSTEMS!**



**I'M NOT GOING TO DIE  
LIKE THAT--STARING IN  
TERROR--GASPING  
HELPLESSLY WHILE THAT  
THING STALKS CLOSER!  
WE'VE GOT TO REACH  
A HOSPITAL--WHY ARE  
WE WASTING PRECIOUS  
MOMENTS HERE?**

**HOLD  
IT--  
YOU'RE  
NOT  
LEAVING!**

GET IN THAT CAR LOADED WITH BUGS ON WHICH STREPTOMYCIN **HAS NO EFFECT**---AND YOU'LL BE PASSING A DEATH SENTENCE ON EVERYONE WITH WHOM YOU COME IN CONTACT! NOTHING WOULD DO ANY GOOD, DIANA... **WE'VE GOT TO FACE IT ALONE!**

BUT HOW? IF MEDICINE CAN'T HELP US... **WHAT HOPE IS THERE?**



NO USE KIDDING OURSELVES --WE'RE GOING TO KNOW WHAT THE APPROACH OF DEATH IS LIKE-- **AND IT WILL MEAN THE RETURN OF THAT FIEND!** BUT IT'S THE VERY SOUL OF THOSE LITTLE KILLERS, DIANA --- **A SINGLE CREATURE EMBODYING BILLIONS OF GERMS!** IF IT COULD BE DESTROYED AT THE INSTANT IT APPEARS --- **THE GERMS THEMSELVES WOULD BE EXTERMINATED!**



DESTROYED... BY US --WHEN WE'LL BARELY HAVE STRENGTH TO RAISE OUR HEADS?

**YE GODS --- SHE'S READY TO KEEL OVER!**



SHE'S PASSED OUT--AND IT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO ME ANY SECOND! BUT WHILE THERE'S A SPARK OF WILL LEFT IN ME, I'M GOING TO REMAIN CONSCIOUS -- **AND FIGHT FOR OUR SOULS!**

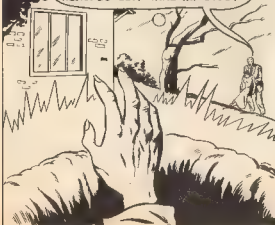


**AN HOUR LATER...** SPURRED BY A BLIND AND DESPERATE INSTINCT THAT WARNS OF APPROACHING DREAD...

I---I'VE GOT TO GET DIANA AWAY FROM THAT PLACE! MAYBE WE CAN HIDE...MAYBE IT WON'T FIND US!



**THEN...** IT'S HOPELESS...THERE'S A GLOW RISING FROM THE GROUND--WE'VE REACHED OUR FINAL MINUTES!



THERE'S THE FIEND--AND IT WON'T HAVE LONG TO WAIT! BUT THERE'S **ANOTHER LIGHT**---COMING UP BEHIND IT!





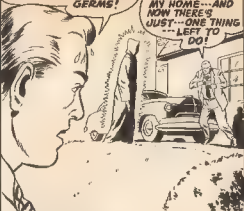
LOTTING WEAKLY IN THE GLARE  
OF HEADLIGHTS...

GOOD LORD...  
DR. NICHOLS!



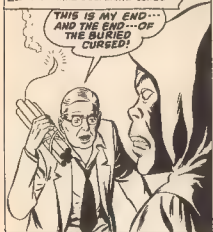
GET BACK---GET BACK!  
THAT THING'S...ALIVE  
WITH---CURSE FEVER  
GERMS!

TOO LATE...  
I'VE GOT IT!  
I'VE DESTROYED  
MY HOME...AND  
NOW THERE'S  
JUST---ONE THING  
---LEFT TO  
DO!



WITH A FINAL DESPERATE LUNGE---

THIS IS MY END...  
AND THE END...OF  
THE BURIED  
CURSED!



IN THE NEXT SECOND---



IN THE HUSH THAT FOLLOWS---

LESLIE---WHAT HAPPENED?  
I FELT A TREMENDOUS  
IMPACT---AND NOW---  
I'VE RECOVERED!

THAT WAS DR. NICHOLS'  
DOING---HE GOT HERE  
SECONDS AHEAD OF  
DEATH---HIS OWN AND  
OURS---AND ANNIHI-  
LATED EVERYONE OF  
THE GERMS IN A SINGLE  
BLAST!



EVERYTHING THAT HAD  
BEEN CONTAMINATED IS  
DESTROYED, LESLIE---  
EVEN FATHER'S BODY!  
IT'S MEANT DEATH FOR  
TWO PEOPLE---BUT THE  
CURSE FEVER COULD  
HAVE KILLED  
THOUSANDS!

WE HAD A NARROW  
ESCAPE, HONEY! IT'S  
LIKE BEING REBORN  
IN A NEW EXISTENCE  
---AND WE'RE GOING  
TO LIVE IT TO-  
GETHER!



# GHOSTLY DESTROYER



SLEEP... SLEEP, UNSUSPECTING MORTALS OF ARSDALE! DREAM YOUR GREED-FILLED DREAMS OF FAME, FORTUNE AND POWER --- FOR AFTER TONIGHT, YOU WILL DREAM NO MORE! FOR I CAN READ YOUR FACES! THOSE AMONG YOU WHO ARE KIND, VIRTUOUS, I WILL SPARE --- BUT THOSE WHO ARE TAINTED WITH THE SLIGHTEST TRACE OF EVIL MUST DIE BY MY HAND!

BUT NOT ALL ARE ASLEEP IN THE SMALL, PEACEFUL TOWN OF ARSDALE, ON THE BANKS OF THE TRANQUIL HUDSON...

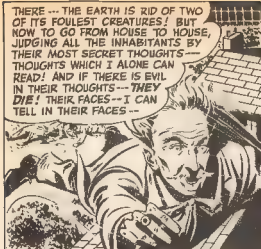
THIS'LL BE THE EASIEST HOUSEBREAKIN' JOB WE EVER PULLED! HEY! -- YUH'RE LETTIN' ME SLIP!

L-LOOK!



DIE... DIE!

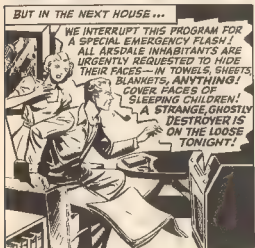




THERE --- THE EARTH IS RID OF TWO OF ITS FOULEST CREATURES! BUT NOW TO GO FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE, JUDGING ALL THE INHABITANTS BY THEIR MOST SECRET THOUGHTS --- THOUGHTS WHICH I ALONE CAN READ! AND IF THERE IS EVIL IN THEIR THOUGHTS --- **THEY DIE!** THEIR FACES --- I CAN TELL IN THEIR FACES ---



**OH!!!** YOU ARE GOOD --- YOUR INMOST THOUGHTS SHOW NOTHING BUT MOTHERLY KINDNESS --- **YOU** I WILL SPARE! BUT I MUST GO ON --- ON ---



BUT IN THE NEXT HOUSE ...

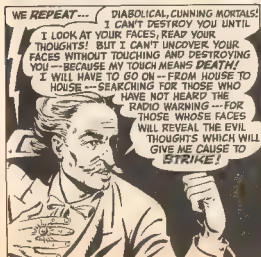
WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM FOR A SPECIAL EMERGENCY FLASH! ALL ARSDALE INHABITANTS ARE URGENTLY REQUESTED TO HIDE THEIR FACES --- IN TOWELS, SHEETS, BLANKETS, ANYTHING! COVER FACES OF SLEEPING CHILDREN! A STRANGE, GHOSTLY DESTROYER IS ON THE LOOSE TONIGHT!



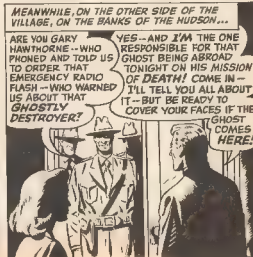
WE REPEAT --- ALL RESIDENTS OF ARSDALE ARE WARNED TO COVER THEIR FACES --- IMMEDIATELY!

MOMMY, WHY DID YOU WAKE ME UP? ARE WE PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK?

YES, DARLING, WE'RE HIDING --- BUT WE MUSTN'T LOOK AT THE PERSON WHO'S TRYING TO FIND US!



WE REPEAT --- DIABOLICAL, CUNNING MORTALS! I CAN'T DESTROY YOU UNTIL I LOOK AT YOUR FACES, READ YOUR THOUGHTS! BUT I CAN'T UNCOVER YOUR FACES WITHOUT TOUCHING AND DESTROYING YOU --- BECAUSE MY TOUCH MEANS DEATH! I WILL HAVE TO GO ON --- FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE --- SEARCHING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT HEARD THE RADIO WARNING --- FOR THOSE WHOSE FACES WILL REVEAL THE EVIL THOUGHTS WHICH WILL GIVE ME CAUSE TO STRIKE!



MEANWHILE, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE VILLAGE, ON THE BANKS OF THE HUDSON ...

ARE YOU GARY HAWTHORNE --- WHO PHONED AND TOLD US TO ORDER THAT EMERGENCY RADIO FLASH --- WHO WARNED US ABOUT THAT GHOSTLY DESTROYER?

YES --- AND I'M THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT GHOST BEING ABROAD TONIGHT ON HIS MISSION OF DEATH! COME IN --- I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT --- BUT BE READY TO COVER YOUR FACES IF THE GHOST COMES HERE!

IT ALL STARTED THREE DAYS AGO, WHEN I DROVE DOWN TO NEW YORK WITH MY SISTER CLAUDIA, HERE, AND MY BROTHER VICTOR --- TO MEET A LINER COMING IN FROM EGYPT! WE'D RECEIVED A VERY STRANGELY WORDED CABLEGRAM FROM MY FATHER, PROF. HAWTHORNE, THE EMINENT EGYPTOLOGIST --- SAYING THAT HE'D MADE A TERRIBLE DISCOVERY IN THE RUINS OF THE TEMPLE OF BEHBET, AND WAS ABANDONING HIS EXPEDITION AND RETURNING HOME IMMEDIATELY!



"NATURALLY, WE WERE ALL WORRIED --- AND WHEN THE LINER FINALLY DOCKED..."

THERE HE IS --- COMING DOWN THE GANGWAY!

GREAT SCOTT! JUST LOOK AT HIM! HE'S SO PALE, SO WILD-LOOKING! AND WHY'S HE SWINGING HIS CANE AT THOSE PASSENGERS? HE MUST'VE GONE BATTY!



GET OUT OF MY WAY, YOU GREEDY DESPOILERS OF THE EARTH! I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR FACES --- YOU'RE ALL MAD --- MONEY-MAD, POWER-MAD, PLEASURE-MAD! YOU'RE ALL VILE --- VILE!

WHEW --- I'M GLAD THIS TRIP'S OVER --- HE'S BEEN RANTING LIKE THAT ALL THE WAY FROM ALEXANDRIA!



WAIT --- YOU! YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE MET WHO *DOESN'T* HAVE GREED AND ENVY WRITTEN ALL OVER HIS FACE, WHO ISN'T MAD WITH DESIRE FOR WEALTH AND POWER!

YOU'RE GOOD --- GOOD!

HUH? ME?



FATHER --- WHAT'S GOT INTO YOU? ARE YOU ILL?

MY... MY CHILDREN! I... I DON'T DARE LOOK AT THEM --- I COULDN'T STAND IT IF I READ *THEIR* SECRET THOUGHTS AND FOUND THEM EVIL!



PLEASE --- DON'T MAKE ME LOOK AT YOU --- TAKE ME HOME!

SAY --- THAT RING ON YOUR FINGER --- WHAT A ROCK! YOU *DID* FIND A FORTUNE IN THAT OLD TEMPLE --- THAT JEWEL MUST BE WORTH THOUSANDS!





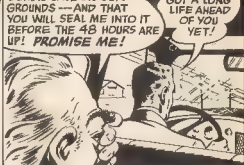
THERE--- JUST  
LEAN BACK AND  
RELAX, FATHER!  
YOU'LL FEEL  
BETTER AS  
SOON AS WE  
GET YOU HOME!

SAY, POP--  
WHAT ABOUT  
THAT RING?  
WHERE IN  
BLAZES DID  
YOU GET SUCH  
A GEM?

THE RING? IT  
IS THE ACCURSED  
RING OF **ISIS**---  
THE EGYPTIAN  
GODDESS OF  
MAGIC --- AND  
HE WHO WEARS  
IT IS **DOOMED  
FOREVER!**

THE RING CANNOT BE REMOVED FROM MY  
FINGER UNTIL 48 HOURS AFTER MY  
DEATH--- BUT I WANT YOU  
ALL TO PROMISE ME THAT  
WHEN I DIE, YOU WILL BURY  
ME IN THE OLD INDIAN  
BURIAL CAVE ON OUR  
GROUNDS --- AND THAT  
YOU WILL SEAL ME INTO IT  
BEFORE THE 48 HOURS ARE  
UP! **PROMISE ME!**

SURE, DAD--  
SURE -- WE  
**PROMISE!**  
BUT YOU'VE  
GOT A LONG  
LIFE AHEAD  
OF YOU  
YET!



"BUT WHEN WE GOT HOME, WE  
SOON SAW THAT DAD'S STRANGE  
OBSESSION HADN'T LEFT HIM..."

HELP ME UP TO MY  
ROOM! I... I STILL  
DON'T WANT TO  
OPEN MY EYES--  
AND TAKE THE  
CHANCE OF  
SEEING YOU AS  
YOU REALLY  
**MIGHT  
BE!**

POOR  
OLD BOY--  
HE'S REALLY  
ILL!



BUT FIVE MINUTES LATER,  
AFTER WE'D COME DOWN  
FROM HIS ROOM...

**BANG!**

OHH--  
A  
**SHOT!**

IT'S FROM  
DAD'S  
ROOM!



DAD!  
OH, NO---  
**NO...**

HE... HE'S DEAD! I... I  
CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WHY  
SHOULD HE WANT TO  
COMMIT SUICIDE---WHAT  
TERRIBLE THING  
HAPPENED TO  
HIM IN EGYPT  
TO DRIVE  
HIM MAD?



IT... IT **IS** A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY---  
AND WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT  
CAUSED IT! BUT WE  
DO KNOW HE'D GONE  
INSANE --- AND THERE'S  
NO POINT TO FOLLOWING  
OUT HIS CRAZY INSTRUCTIONS  
ABOUT THE BURIAL OR ABOUT  
THE **RING!** IT OUGHT TO  
BRING US **PLENTY!**

WHY, YOU  
HEARTLESS,  
MONEY-MAD  
INGRATE! DAD'S  
LAST DYING WISH  
IS GOING TO  
BE **CARRIED  
OUT!**



I'M GOING TO  
HAVE DAD  
SEALED UP  
IN THE BURIAL  
CAVE WITHIN  
48 HOURS ---  
JUST AS HE  
REQUESTED!

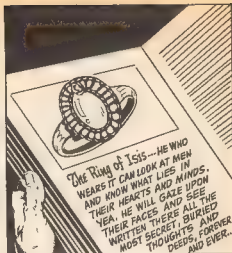
YES! WE  
PROMISED  
FATHER  
WE  
WOULD!

WELL, ALL RIGHT---  
SINCE YOU'RE  
**BOTH** AGAINST  
ME! I GUESS  
THE OLD BOY'S  
WILL OUGHT TO  
SUPPLY ME WITH  
ENOUGH MONEY,  
ANYWAY --- BUT IF  
I THOUGHT THAT RING  
WAS WORTH **MORE**  
THAN A FEW THOUSANDS,  
NOTHING WOULD KEEP  
ME FROM  
IT!



"THEN, TWO DAYS LATER,  
JUST A FEW HOURS  
AFTER THE BURIAL..."

HEY--- WAIT'LL YOU SEE  
**THIS!** I WAS JUST  
LOOKING THROUGH POP'S  
OLD BOOKS IN HIS  
LIBRARY--- AND CAME ACROSS  
A PICTURE OF THE **RING  
OF ISIS!** JUST READ  
WHAT IT SAYS  
ABOUT IT!



THE RING OF ISIS---HE WHO  
WEARS IT CAN LOOK AT MEN  
AND KNOW WHAT LIES IN  
THEIR HEARTS AND MINDS.  
YEA, HE WILL GAZE UPON  
THEIR FACES AND SEE  
WRITTEN THERE ALL THE  
MOST SECRETS AND  
THOUGHTS, FOREVER...  
AND EVER...

NOW I'M BEGINNING TO  
UNDERSTAND DAD'S STRANGE  
ACTIONS! HE DISCOVERED THE  
RING, TRIED IT ON, FOUND HE  
COULDN'T TAKE IT OFF--- AND  
WAS PROBABLY APPALLED AND  
SICKENED BY ALL THE DARK,  
DEPRAVED GREEDS AND  
CRUELITIES OF THOSE WHOSE  
FACES HE LOOKED ON! HE WAS  
TOO FINE AND SENSITIVE TO  
BEAR IT --- AND SO HORRIFIED AT

ALL THE EVIL  
IN THE WORLD  
THAT HE HAD  
TO COMMIT  
SUICIDE!



YEAH, BUT THINK OF THE POWER  
THAT RING WOULD GIVE SOME-  
ONE WHO WAS TOUGH ENOUGH  
TO USE IT--- LIKE US! WHY,  
IT COULD MAKE US THE RICHEST  
MEN IN THE WORLD! WE COULD  
BLACKMAIL THE RICH AND  
PROMINENT PEOPLE WHOSE  
MINDS AND SECRETS  
WE READ, AND ---



WHY, YOU---  
YOU VILE  
**WRETCH!**



DAD WAS RIGHT TO BE AFRAID  
TO LOOK AT US--- THANK HEAVENS  
HE DIED WITHOUT KNOWING HOW  
UTTERLY CONTEMPTIBLE AT LEAST  
ONE OF HIS CHILDREN WAS!  
YOU'LL GET THAT RING ONLY OVER  
MY DEAD BODY--- **THAT**

**TOMB STAYS  
SEALED!**

OKAY, OKAY---  
IF YOU FEEL  
THAT WAY  
ABOUT IT!



"BUT THAT NIGHT, WHILE CLAUDIA AND I WERE  
TAKING A STROLL AROUND THE HOUSE ... "

**BOOM!**

AN **EXPLOSION**--- AND  
IT CAME FROM THE DIRECTION  
OF THE INDIAN BURIAL CAVE!  
LET'S GET THERE  
--- **FAST!**



THE CAVE --- IT'S  
BEEN **BLOWN  
OPEN!**

A LIGHT ---  
SOMEONE'S  
IN THERE!

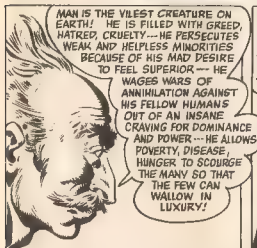


" THEN, AT THE END OF THE CAVE, A GHASTLY SIGHT MET OUR HORRIFIED EYES... "

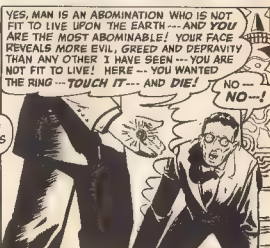


SHH --- DON'T MAKE ANY OUTCRY, CLAUDIA! JUST... JUST LOOK! IS... IS IT POSSIBLE?

YOU --- MY OWN SON --- TO BETRAY MY DYING WISHES! A THOUSAND CURSES ON YOU FOR OPENING MY TOMB TO THE WORLD! I WANTED IT SEALED BECAUSE THE RING OF ISIS GIVES MY SPIRIT ETERNAL LIFE AFTER DEATH --- AND NEVER AGAIN DID I WANT TO GAZE UPON THE FACES OF THE MOST EVIL RACE ON EARTH --- THE HUMAN RACE!



MAN IS THE VILEST CREATURE ON EARTH! HE IS FILLED WITH GREED, HATRED, CRUELTY --- HE PERSECUTES WEAK AND HELPLESS MINORITIES BECAUSE OF HIS MAD DESIRE TO FEEL SUPERIOR --- HE WAGES WARS OF ANNIHILATION AGAINST HIS FELLOW HUMANS OUT OF AN INSANE CRAVING FOR DOMINANCE AND POWER --- HE ALLOWS POVERTY, DISEASE, HUNGER TO SCOURGE THE MANY SO THAT THE FEW CAN WALLOW IN LUXURY!



YES, MAN IS AN ABOMINATION WHO IS NOT FIT TO LIVE UPON THE EARTH --- AND YOU ARE THE MOST ABOMINABLE! YOUR FACE REVEALS MORE EVIL, GREED AND DEPRAVITY THAN ANY OTHER I HAVE SEEN --- YOU ARE NOT FIT TO LIVE! HERE --- YOU WANTED THE RING --- TOUCH IT --- AND DIE!

NO --- NO ---!



OH, NO --- FATHER --- DON'T!

CLAUDIA! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE CRIED OUT --- IF HE SEES US, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE'LL FIND IN OUR FACES! NOW THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO PREVENT HIM FROM LOOKING AT US ---

YAAAH!

SO --- MY OTHER TWO CHILDREN --- YOU WERE PARTNERS WITH VICTOR IN THE PLOT TO BETRAY ME! HIDING WILL DO YOU NO GOOD --- I HEARD YOUR VOICE, CLAUDIA! LET ME SEE YOUR FACES --- SO THAT I WILL KNOW WHETHER YOU ARE FIT TO LIVE --- WHETHER I SHOULD SPARE YOU!

DAD --- LISTEN! YOU CAN'T DO THIS! YOU'RE WRONG! YOU CAN'T JUDGE THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE!

HUMAN NATURE ISN'T PERFECT-- THERE'S A LITTLE OF ENVY AND DESIRE FOR WEALTH IN EVERYONE! BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE US UNWORTHY TO LIVE! DON'T FORGET THE LOVE AND KINDNESS THAT'S IN EACH OF US --- BE FAIR!

I AM BEING FAIR-- I'M NOT SENTENCING YOU TO DEATH UNTIL I SEE YOUR FACES... AND I KNOW HOW TO MAKE YOU SHOW THEM TO ME!

I'M GOING TO VISIT EVERY HOUSE IN ARSDALE, LOOKING AT ALL THE RESIDENTS, KILLING THOSE WHO DESERVE KILLING -- BUT SPARING THOSE WHOSE FACES SHOW ONLY PERFECT VIRTUE! AND I'LL CALL OFF MY CRUSADE ONLY WHEN THE TWO OF YOU ARE READY TO STAND BEFORE MY JUDGMENT WITH UNCOVERED FACES! YOU CAN SIGNAL YOUR WILLINGNESS BY LIGHTING A FIRE IN FRONT OF THE CAVE!

GREAT SCOTT! HE MEANS IT! LET'S GET TO A PHONE, CLAUDIA-- IN A HURRY!

AND THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED! AS SOON AS WE GOT BACK TO THE HOUSE, WE PHONED YOU AND TOLD YOU TO BROADCAST THAT EMERGENCY WARNING!

BUT WE CAN'T LET THE GHOST GO ON LIKE THIS-- HE MIGHT FIND SOME PEOPLE WHO HAVEN'T HEARD THE RADIO WARNING, OR HE MIGHT GET IMPATIENT AND START TEARING THE COVERS OFF PEOPLE'S FACES!

YOU'VE GOT TO LIGHT THAT FIRE AND FACE HIM YOURSELVES!

HE'S RIGHT, GARY-- WE'D BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF ANY OF THOSE PEOPLE! WE'VE GOT TO LET HIM JUDGE US! BUT... BUT WE'RE HUMAN-- WITH ALL THE FAULTS AND IMPERFECTIONS OF HUMANS! HE'S PROBABLY SO ENRAGED BY NOW THAT NOTHING SHORT OF IMPOSSIBLE PERFECTION WILL SATISFY HIM--AND NOBODY IS PERFECT! BUT I... I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO RISK IT!

BUT GARY--HOW CAN WE BE SURE THAT NO MATTER HOW HE JUDGES US, HE'LL CALL OFF HIS TERRIBLE CRUSADE AGAINST THE TOWN?

I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT!-- WAIT!-- I'VE GOT IT-- THE MIRROR WILL DO THE TRICK! LET'S GO LIGHT THAT FIRE!

LOOK-- THERE HE COMES!

IF YOU EVER PRAYED, START PRAYING NOW, CLAUDIA! UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, HE'S GOING TO FIND SOME IMPERFECTION IN US-- AND DOOM US!

**AFTER MOMENTS LATER, AFTER A LONG, BURNING GAZE THAT SEEMS TO PENETRATE INTO THE VERY DEPTHS OF THEIR SOULS...**

**YOU ARE BOTH COURAGEOUS, SELF-SACRIFICING, CONSIDERATE, WARM-HEARTED--- WITH EVEN A TOUCH OF TRUE NOBILITY ABOUT YOU! YOU'RE ALMOST PERFECT, BUT...NOT PERFECT ENOUGH! I'LL HAVE TO TOUCH YOU--- SEND YOU INTO THE COLD, IMMUTABLE PERFECTION OF DEATH!**

**NO, DAD--- WAIT!**



**YOU'RE A SPIRIT, BUT YOU'VE STILL RETAINED YOUR HUMAN FEATURES! LOOK AT YOURSELF IN THIS MIRROR--- SEE WHETHER YOU'RE NOBLE AND VIRTUOUS ENOUGH TO JUDGE OTHERS AND SEND THEM TO THEIR DEATHS!**



**NO---NO! CAN THAT BE ME? I... I SEE NOTHING BUT TERRIBLE CRUELTY IN MY FACE... WILD FANATICISM... INTOLERANCE FOR HUMAN WEAKNESSES AND FRAILTIES! I... I DESERVE TO BE DESTROYED!**



**AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY FOR MY SPIRIT TO BE DESTROYED! AS LONG AS THE RING OF ISIS REMAINS ON MY FINGER AFTER DEATH, MY SPIRIT WILL LIVE FOREVER--- BUT AS PUNISHMENT FOR TAKING IT OFF, MY SPIRIT WILL DESCEND TO THE UTTER, FLAMING DEPTHS OF THE WORLD BELOW!--- O ISIS, DREAD GODDESS--- I REMOVE THY SACRED RING--- CONSIGN MY SPIRIT TO THE ETERNAL FLAMES!**



**OH, GARY--- HOW... HOW HORRIBLE!**

**YES, BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY! LOOK -- THE RING IT'S FALLING OUT OF THE FIRE!**

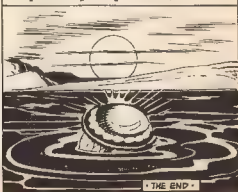
**AAAGHH!**



**IT'S STRANGELY HEAVY--- IT'LL SINK IMMEDIATELY! AND THIS WILL MAKE SURE THAT NO ONE EVER WEARS THIS ACCURSED RING AGAIN!**



**Yes, the ring was strangely heavy --- but also strangely BUOYANT! And it's either floating somewhere right now, or else it's already been picked up --- by WHOM?**



**• THE END •**



# The LAND of LIVING MYTHS



HERE'S A DIFFERENT TYPE OF STORY... AS EERIE AND TERRIFYING AS ANY WHICH HAS EVER EMERGED FROM THE GRIM WORLD OF THE SUPERNATURAL! FOR THRILLS AND CHILLS THAT ARE REALLY OUT OF THIS WORLD, READ THIS WEIRD TALE... AS TOLD BY ITS AUTHOR, **BEN MANDING.**

"IT ALL BEGAN IN THE OFFICE OF ONE OF MY PUBLISHERS..."

WELL, BEN, YOUR BOOK GOES ON SALE TOMORROW... AND WITH THIS KIND OF PUBLICITY, IT SHOULD BE A **BEST SELLER!**

I HOPE SO, SIR!

HOPE SO? WHY, I PREDICT THAT AFTER THIS BOOK APPEARS, MYTHOLOGY WILL NO LONGER EVEN BE TAUGHT IN THE SCHOOLS!

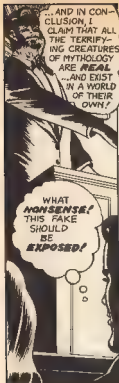


"I LEFT WITH MY FIANCEE, VERA... JUST AS A SUDDEN RAIN-STORM HIT US..."

WHY NOT GO IN, BEN... JUST TO GET OUT OF THIS DOWNPOUR?

LECTURE TONIGHT ON THE SPEAKS OF ANCIENT MYTHS

SURE! ANY PORT IN A STORM... EVEN THIS MALARKEY!



...AND IN CONCLUSION, I CLAIM THAT ALL THE TERRIFYING CREATURES OF MYTHOLOGY ARE **REAL**...AND EXIST IN A WORLD OF THEIR OWN!

WHAT **NONSENSE!** THIS FAKE SHOULD BE **EXPOSED!**



NOW... ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

YES! HOW DARE YOU VOICE SUCH **FOOLISHNESS** IN PUBLIC?



"I WASN'T PREPARED FOR HIS REACTION... THAT LOOK OF VENOMOUS HATRED..."

YOU ARE A CYNICAL DISBELIEVER... AND BEFORE LONG YOU WILL **LEARN** THE TRUTH OF MY THEORY!



"AS WE LEFT, I TRIED TO DOWN THE EERIE FOREBODING OF **EVIL** THAT CAME OVER ME!"

I'M WORRIED, BEN THAT OLD MAN MAY CAUSE TROUBLE

FORGET IT... WE'VE SEEN THE LAST OF HIM!



BUT AS WE ENTERED MY APARTMENT..."

WHA...! **DR. SUEB!** BUT HOW DID YOU...?

NEVER MIND THAT! I HAVE PROOF TO OFFER YOU THAT A MYTHOLOGICAL WORLD **REALLY EXISTS**...PROOF THAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE BEFORE AN AUDIENCE!



**NUTS!** FOR MY MONEY, YOU'RE OFF YOUR **ROCKER!**

MAYBE **THIS** WILL CHANGE YOUR MIND!



"AS THE SINISTER MAN GESTURED STRANGELY, THERE WAS A CRASH, A BLINDING FLARE OF LIGHT AND..."

YOU **SUMMONED** ME, MASTER?

GREAT GUNS! IT'S **MERCURY**...THE MESSENGER OF THE GODS!

"ANOTHER GESTURE... AND THE APPARITION VANISHED!"

WELL, ARE YOU CONVINCED NOW?

YES. CONVINCED THAT YOU'RE JUST A CHARLATAN WHO RELIES ON **HYPNOTISM** TO PROVE YOUR LIES.



"I MOVED FORWARD TO QUIET THIS QUEER LUNATIC, BUT..."

M-MY ARMS. THEY'RE PARALYZED!

YOU HAVE DARED TO SCOFF AT MY KNOWLEDGE AND POWER...AND FOR THAT, YOU SHALL **SUFFER!**



"HEREBY EXILE YOU TO THE **LAND OF LIVING MYTHS...** AND TO MAKE YOUR PUNISHMENT WORSE, YOUR LOVED ONE SHALL ACCOMPANY YOU!"



COME ON, VERA... WE'LL CALL A COP!

"I'VE WALKED OUTSIDE... INTO A STRANGE AND MAGICAL REALM!"

VERA... **LOOK!** HE WAS RIGHT, THEN... THIS MUST BE THE **LAND OF LIVING MYTHS!**



YES... AND YOU MAY RETURN ONLY THROUGH THIS DOOR... IF YOU CAN FIND IT AGAIN!

"AS I REALIZED THE HORRIBLE TRUTH, I WHIRLED... TOO LATE!"

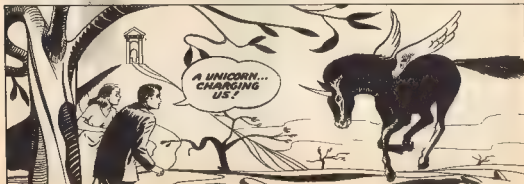
**WAIT!** YOU CAN'T! THE DOOR... IT'S **DISAPPEARED!**



"WE WERE STRANDED... IN AN EERIE, TERRIFYING LAND THAT SEEMED LIKE A NIGHTMARE COME TRUE!"

W-WHAT'S THAT?

HUH?



A **UNICORN...** CHARGING US!

"LUCKILY, I HAD READ HOW HUNTERS TRAP RHINOS IN AFRICA...WOULD IT WORK WITH A UNICORN?"



WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE... LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE!

...BUT NOT TOO FAR AWAY...WE'VE GOT TO FIND THAT DOOR AGAIN!



BEN...I'M FRIGHTENED! SO AM I...AS OF NOW! LOOK WHAT'S COMING!



"IT WAS A HARPY...ONE OF THE MOST DREADED CREATURES OF MYTHOLOGY!"



NOTHING... CAN SAVE US NOW...



SUDDENLY...



WHY, IT LOOKS TERRIFIED! IT'S FALLING!

LOOK... IT'S TURNED TO STONE!



DON'T TURN AROUND! I'VE GOT A HUNCH THAT MEDUSA, THE SNAKE-HEADED HORROR WHOSE GLANCE TURNS ALL LIVING THINGS TO STONE, IS BEHIND US!



QUICK, VERA... YOUR POCKET  
MIRROR! IT'S OUR **ONLY**  
**CHANCE!**

I'LL USE  
THIS  
ROCK!



"THIS WE WERE SAVED AGAIN FROM A FATE  
MORE FEARFUL THAN ANY TO BEFALL A  
LIVING MORTAL!"

UGH!

POW!



THIS WAY, I  
CAN SEE  
MEDUSA  
WITHOUT  
MEETING  
HER GAZE!

"BUT NEW TERRORS WERE HERALDED  
BY THE THUNDER OF INCREDIBLE HOOVES."

THERE THEY ARE... **CENTAURS!**  
**SEIZE THEM!** WE  
CAN'T  
OUTRUN  
THEM!



WHERE...WHERE  
ARE YOU TAKING  
US?

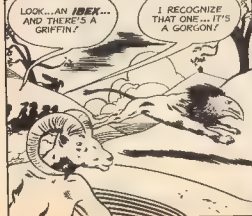
TO OUR KING  
MIGHTY **ZEUS!**  
HE HAS **SENT**  
FOR YOU!



"THROUGH A FANTASTIC REGION WE RACED,  
WITH UNBELIEVABLE CREATURES ON ALL  
SIDES..."

LOOK...AN **IDEX**...  
AND THERE'S A  
GRIFFIN!

I RECOGNIZE  
THAT ONE... IT'S  
A GORGON!



"UNTIL AT LAST WE REACHED A TINY GRECIAN  
TEMPLE HIGH ON A LOFTY PEAK... AND THERE..."

THERE... OUR  
KING, ZEUS, AWAITS!

I CAN'T BELIEVE  
IT! ZEUS IS--  
**DOCTOR**  
**SUEZ!**







LOOK...  
IT'S TIME  
YOU  
EXPLAINED  
WHAT THIS  
IS ALL  
ABOUT!

THEN HEAR ME,  
O MORTAL!



LEARN WHY I VISITED  
EARTH! MAN'S BELIEF  
IN MYTHOLOGY HAS  
GROWN STEADILY WEAK-  
ER... WE EXIST ONLY  
AS CREATURES OF HIS  
**IMAGINATION!**  
...AND IF MEN CEASE  
TO BELIEVE IN US EN-  
TIRELY, WE WILL  
**CEASE TO EXIST!**



I WENT AMONG YOU  
AS A MAN, STRIVING  
TO INCREASE HUMAN  
BELIEF IN US... TO  
PROTECT MY REALM  
AGAINST CYNICS LIKE  
**YOU!** AND NOW THAT YOU  
HAVE WRITTEN YOUR BOOK,  
YOU ARE EVEN **DANGER-  
OUS!**

"HOW COULD I DOUBT THE EVI-  
DENCE OF MY OWN EYES... I  
MADE A QUICK DECISION..."

I SEE THAT I WAS WRONG!  
NOW... WILL YOU SEND US BACK  
TO OUR WORLD?



ON ONE  
CONDITION...  
YOU MUST  
PROMISE THAT  
YOUR BOOK  
**WILL NOT  
APPEAR!**

BUT I CAN'T...  
IT'S OUT OF  
MY HANDS!  
NO MATTER  
WHAT I DO,  
THE BOOK  
WILL GO  
ON SALE  
**TOMORROW!!**

YOU **STILL**  
DARE TO  
THWART MY  
WILL? **THROW  
THEM TO  
THE  
CYCLOPS!**



"WE WERE SEIZED, FORCED INTO A  
LARGE NATURAL ARENA... AND THERE,  
ABOVE US, LOOMED OUR GRISLY FATE!"



OH,  
NO!

WAIT! HE  
EXPECTS US  
TO RUN  
**AWAY**  
FROM HIM!  
SO...

"A THING THAT BIG **HAD** TO BE SLOW...IN BODY AND IN MIND! IT WAS A BREAK FOR US..."



"BUT OUR LUCK HAD RUN OUT...WE HAD DASHED INTO THE JAWS OF **DEATH!**"



"SUDDENLY, THERE WAS A CRASHING IN OUR EARS... A FLASH... AND AN ETERNITY OF SEARING FLAMES!"



"THEN...OUR SENSES RETURNED... AND WE FOUND OURSELVES BACK IN MY APARTMENT!"



"IT WAS MY PUBLISHER..."

BAD NEWS, BEN... THERE'S BEEN A FIRE IN OUR WAREHOUSE! LUCKILY, **WE'RE** INJURED, BUT...EVERY COPY OF YOUR BOOK WAS **BURNED!** I... **WHAT?**

I SAID... YOU THINK **YOU'RE** LUCKY?



LATER...

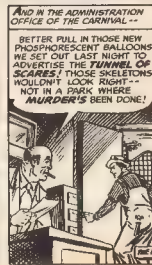
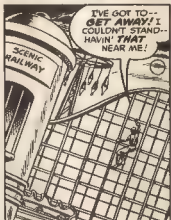
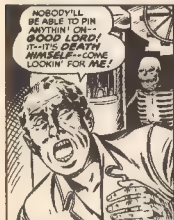
COME ON, DARLING! LET'S GO CELEBRATE THE **END** OF YOUR LITERARY CAREER!

YES, BUT NOT THROUGH **THIS** POOR...LET'S USE THE SIDE ENTRANCE!

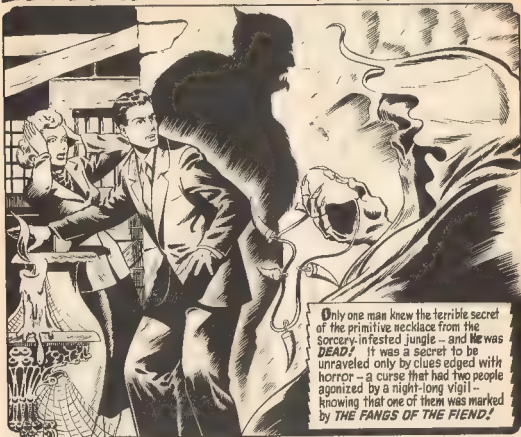


THE END

# DEATH at the CARNIVAL!



# FANGS of the FIEND

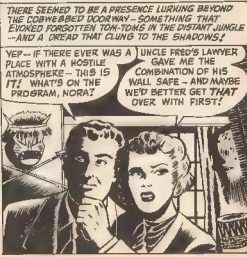


Only one man knew the terrible secret of the primitive necklace from the Sorcery-infested jungle -- and he was **DEAD!** It was a secret to be unraveled only by clues edged with horror -- a curse that had two people agonized by a night-long vigil -- knowing that one of them was marked by **THE FANGS OF THE FIEND!**



**LATE ONE AFTERNOON --**  
CAN'T SAY I THINK MUCH OF THIS HOUSE YOU'VE INHERITED, NORA -- ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING IT'S FIFTEEN MILES FROM THE NEAREST TOWN!

AFTER EXPLORING FOR YEARS AMONG PRIMITIVE TRIBES, UNCLE FRED WANTED A QUIET PLACE FOR HIS RESEARCH! I WAS CURIOUS ABOUT THE TROPHIES MENTIONED IN HIS WILL, JIM -- BUT AFTER SEEING THE HOUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME -- I'M GLAD YOU'VE COME WITH ME!



THERE SEEMED TO BE A PRESENCE LURKING BEYOND THE DOORWAY -- SOMETHING THAT EVOKED FORGOTTEN TOM-TOMS IN THE DISTANT JUNGLE -- AND A DREAD THAT CLUNG TO THE SHADOWS!

YEP -- IF THERE EVER WAS A PLACE WITH A HOSTILE ATMOSPHERE -- THIS IS IT! WHAT'S ON THE PROGRAM, NORA?

UNCLE FRED'S LAWYER GAVE ME THE COMBINATION OF HIS WALL SAFE -- AND MAYBE WE'D BETTER GET THAT OVER WITH FIRST!

A MOMENT LATER -

I WON'T BE SURPRISED TO FIND IT EMPTY, JIM - BECAUSE I'M PRETTY SURE UNCLE FRED DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING OF VALUE!

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING, HONEY! WHAT'S MORE - IT FEELS LIKE A NECKLACE!



HOLY SMOKE - IT'S NOTHING BUT FOUR POINTED TEETH! IF THEY WEREN'T SO LONG AND SHARP, I'D SAY THEY LOOKED ALMOST HUMAN!

A GRUESOME OBJECT LIKE THAT CAN'T BE VALUABLE! WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE UNCLE FRED KEPT IT IN THE SAFE?



SUDDENLY - HOVERING FROM THE DEEPENING GLOOM -

GOOD HEAVENS, JIM! THAT HORRIBLE THING'S STALKING US! GET BEHIND ME - AND DON'T LOSE YOUR NERVE!



THE PHANTOM FINGERS SEEM TO WEAVE IN THE DUSK LIKE THE FEELERS OF HORROR - AND UNEXPECTEDLY -

GREAT GUNS - IT'S GRABBED THE NECKLACE!



AS THE SPECTRAL SHAPE OZZES INTO THE SHADOWS -

JIM - NOW I'M SURE THERE'S EVIL LURKING IN THIS PLACE! GHOSTS DON'T JUST HAPPEN - WHAT IS IT?

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT, HONEY - LET'S FOLLOW IT!



- IN A BROODING CORRIDOR TOUCHED BY THE DREAD OF THE UNSEEN -

THERE'S NO SIGN OF THAT THING ANYWHERE, JIM! LET'S LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE - AND GET OUT OF HERE!

AND SPEND THE REST OF OUR LIVES WONDERING WHY A GHOST WOULD BE INTERESTED IN FOUR POINTED FANGS? COME ON, NORA - LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND IN THE CELLAR!



FROM SOMEWHERE IN THE MUSTY DEPTHS - RISING AND FALLING IN A MUFFLED CHORUS -

JIM - THAT GHOST DIDN'T MAKE A SOUND! WHAT IN HEAVEN ARE WE GOING TO FACE NOW?

I'VE GOT A HUNCH WE'LL KNOW THE ANSWER - SOON AS WE OPEN THAT DOOR!







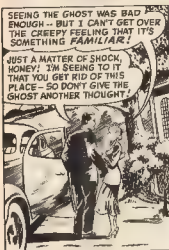
THANK GOODNESS--  
THE GHOST  
ISN'T HERE!

NOPE, BUT YOU CAN  
BET IT WAS -- BECAUSE  
THERE'S THE  
NECKLACE!



I CAN UNDERSTAND A PHANTOM  
VANISHING -- BUT WHAT ABOUT  
THOSE WEIRD MOANS? JIM--  
DO YOU SUPPOSE THE GHOST  
HAD A REASON FOR BRINGING  
THE NECKLACE HERE?

PROBABLY! IT  
OBVIOUSLY DOESN'T  
WANT US TO TAKE  
THE NECKLACE --AND  
WE'LL NEVER LEARN  
WHY UNLESS WE  
DO!



SEEING THE GHOST WAS BAD  
ENOUGH -- BUT I CAN'T GET OVER  
THE CREEPY FEELING THAT IT'S  
SOMETHING FAMILIAR!

JUST A MATTER OF SHOCK,  
HONEY! I'M SEEING TO IT  
THAT YOU GET RID OF THIS  
PLACE -- SO DON'T GIVE THE  
GHOST ANOTHER THOUGHT!



THEN -- BLOTCHING  
THE ASHEN DUSK--

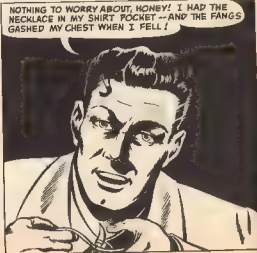
OHH! JIM--  
THERE IT  
IS AGAIN!

LET GO,  
NORA--THE  
CAR'S  
SWERVING!



NORA -- THANK  
HEAVEN YOU'RE  
SAFE!

BUT YOU'VE BEEN  
HURT, JIM -- YOU'RE  
BLEEDING!



NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, HONEY! I HAD THE  
NECKLACE IN MY SHIRT POCKET --AND THE FANGS  
GASHED MY CHEST WHEN I FELL!

AS A SILENT SHAPE REARS IN THE GLOOM --



HEAVENS-- THERE'S  
THE GHOST  
AGAIN!

YES--AND IT'S STILL AFTER  
SOMETHING I DON'T INTEND  
GIVING UP-- THE  
NECKLACE!

UNEXPECTEDLY--

MY GOSH--LOOK!  
THE FANGS ARE GLOWING  
BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER--  
THEY'RE RISING  
INTO THE AIR!

WE CAN'T BLAME THAT  
ON THE GHOST JIM --  
IT'S SHRINKING BACK--  
AS IF IT'S  
AFRAID!



FOR AN INSTANT, THE GLEAMING FANGS  
FLOAT IN A DARKENING SHADOW --



-- A SHADOW THAT LURCHES INTO  
BEING IN A SURGE OF EVIL --

GOOD LORD! GET MOVING--  
THAT MONSTROUS THING'S  
AFTER US!

ARRRRGH!



A MOMENT LATER -- WITH THE HOT,  
RASPING BREATH OF EVIL CLOSE  
BEHIND THEM --

YARRRGH!

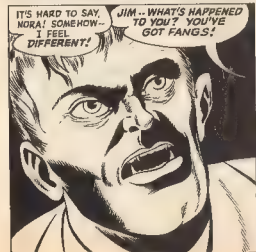
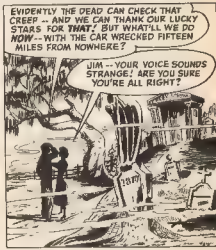


QUICK -- JUMP  
THROUGH!

NOT THE HOUSE,  
JIM! NO MATTER  
WHAT HAPPENS--  
I CAN'T GO IN  
THERE!

THERE'S ONLY ONE  
OTHER PLACE  
WHERE WE CAN  
HIDE -- THAT FLAT  
FIELD WITH THE  
THICK UNDERBRUSH!





THE SLOW HOURS TICK AWAY--AND THE CHANGE IN JIM'S FEATURES GROWS LIKE A CREEPING BLIGHT--

FOR THE LOVE OF NIKK, NORA--DON'T LOOK AT ME! I KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY FACE--MINUTE BY MINUTE!

THANK HEAVEN THE TRANSFORMATION'S A SLOW ONE--WE MAY STILL HAVE TIME!



HERE IT IS--THE ENTRY UNCLE FRED WROTE THE DAY WE BARTERED FOR THE NECKLACE IN A JUNGLE VILLAGE! DARLING, IT'S HORRIBLE--IT'S JUST WHAT WE FEARED--THOSE HIDEOUS THINGS ARE CALLED THE FANGS OF THE FIEND!

DON'T PULL ANY PUNCHES, NORA--NOTHING CAN COME AS A SHOCK WHEN I FEEL DOOM SPREADING THROUGH MY ENTIRE BODY! WHAT'S THE REST?



EVIDENTLY, THE WEREWOLF HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY TRIBAL MAGIC--AND THE FANGS WERE KEPT AS A TALISMAN! ONLY ONE THING COULD RESTORE THE FIEND--THE VERY THING THAT HAPPENED TONIGHT! ACCORDING TO THE NATIVES, WHEN THE FANGS ONCE MORE PIERCED HUMAN FLESH, AND WERE REDDENED BY HUMAN BLOOD--THE WEREWOLF WOULD LIVE AGAIN!

AND WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT THE VICTIM? HOW LONG HAVE I GOT--BEFORE I BECOME A THING LIKE THAT?

UNTIL DAWN--ONE HOUR FROM NOW! THE FIEND WILL BE COMING FOR YOU, JIM--IT'LL BE HERE TO WATCH THE LAST HIDEOUS STAGE OF YOUR TRANSFORMATION--AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO TO PREVENT IT!



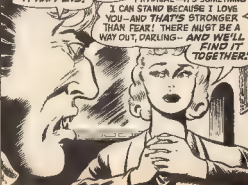
WAIT--WHAT ABOUT THAT OLD GRAVEYARD? IF THE WEREWOLF IS AFRAID TO ENTER--IT'S BECAUSE THE DEAD CAN DO IT HARM! IF WE HIDE AMONG THE TOMBSTONES AT DAWN--MAYBE THAT FIEND CAN BE LURED INTO A TRAP!

MAYBE THE DEAD CAN MENACE A WEREWOLF JIM--BUT HOW CAN WE RISK THE GRAVEYARD--WHEN THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU'LL BE AT DAWN?

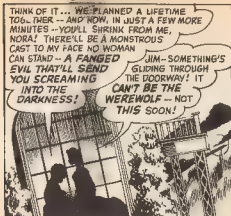


YES--A CREATURE WHOSE FANGS SPELL A TERROR WORSE THAN DEATH TO ANY HUMAN IT'S AROUND! NORA, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, DON'T WAIT--YOU'VE GOT TO LEAVE ME--BEFORE IT HAPPENS!

JIM--I WON'T DENY I'M HORRIFIED BY THIS HIDEOUS CHANGE YOU'RE UNDERGOING! BUT SO FAR, IT'S MERELY PHYSICAL--IT'S SOMETHING I CAN STAND BECAUSE I LOVE YOU--AND THAT'S STRONGER THAN FEAR! THERE MUST BE A WAY OUT, DARLING--AND WE'LL FIND IT TOGETHER!



SOMEWHERE IN THE DARKNESS, A BIRD TWITTERS...  
 AWARE OF THE ONCOMING SUNRISE--AND IN A  
 VOICE THAT DEEPENS MORE AND MORE INTO AN  
 INHUMAN GROWL --



THINK OF IT... WE PLANNED A LIFETIME  
 TOGETHER -- AND NOW, IN JUST A FEW MORE  
 MINUTES -- YOU'LL SHRINK FROM ME,  
 NORA! THERE'LL BE A MONSTROUS  
 CAST TO MY FACE NO WOMAN  
 CAN STAND -- A FANGED  
 EVIL THAT'LL SEND  
 YOU SCREAMING  
 INTO THE  
 DARKNESS!

JIM-- SOMETHING'S  
 GLIDING THROUGH  
 THE DOORWAY! IT  
 CAN'T BE THE  
 WEREWOLF -- NOT  
 THIS SOON!

IT'S THE PHANTOM!  
 NORA! LOOK -- IT'S  
 MOTIONING -- AS IF  
 IT WANTS US  
 TO FOLLOW!

GOOD HEAVENS--THE INDEX FINGER'S  
 MISSING FROM ITS RIGHT HAND!  
 NOW I KNOW WHAT I RECOGNIZED  
 JIM -- IT'S THE GHOST OF UNCLE  
 FRED! ALL THIS TIME -- IT'S  
 BEEN TRYING TO  
 HELP US!



SUDDENLY--AS IF THE SHADOWS DISGORGED  
 A BURDEN OF EVIL --



THE  
 WERE-  
 WOLF!

IT'S COME AHEAD OF TIME TO  
 DRIVE THE GHOST AWAY--  
 KNOWING IT'S OUR  
 LAST HOPE!

ARRRGH!

JIM -- WE HAVEN'T A  
 CHANCE! THE GHOST  
 MIGHT HAVE DONE  
 SOMETHING -- BUT  
 IT'S RETREATING!

UNLESS IT STILL WANTS TO  
 LEAD US SOMEWHERE! LET'S  
 GET AWAY FROM THIS CREEP --  
 AND SEE WHERE THE  
 GHOST IS HEADING!



WITH THE SCURRY OF PURSUING  
 FOOTSTEPS "BEHIND THEM --

THERE'S THAT  
 NOISE AGAIN --  
 JUST LIKE THE  
 MUFFLED STIR  
 OF HIDDEN  
 VOICES!

WHATEVER'S THE CAUSE --  
 I'M PRETTY SURE THE  
 GHOST WOULDN'T LEAD  
 US TO ANYTHING EVIL!  
 THERE IT IS -- STANDING  
 NEAR THOSE LARGE  
 CLAY URNS!

AAH-H-H!



AAH-H-H!

THOSE WEIRD VOICES ARE  
 GROWING LOUDER--AND THEY'RE  
 COMING FROM THE URNS!

AAH-H-H!

QUICK--  
 DUCK  
 INTO THE  
 SHADOWS!





AN INSTANT LATER--

HOUUUH!

THE WEREWOLF'S  
STARTLED, JIM--  
WHAT'S IT AFRAID OF?

SOMETHING WE SHOULD  
HAVE SENSED THE FIRST  
TIME! THOSE ARE BURIAL  
URNS--AND THEY'RE GLOWING  
BRIGHTER EVERY SECOND!

SUDDENLY--IN A WAVE THAT SWEEPS ACROSS THE  
BARRIERS OF THE BEYOND--

GUGH!

GUGH...!

Grimly, the stark figures engulf the werewolf--  
and a baying death-note shudders against  
the dawning sky!

RAAGH!

THEN -- IN THE FIRST MUTED  
FLASH OF SUNLIGHT --

YOU NEEDN'T BE AFRAID,  
HONEY! THE WEREWOLF'S  
DESTROYED FOR GOOD --  
AND THOSE DEAD NATIVES  
YOUR UNCLE BROUGHT  
FROM THE JUNGLE  
ARE RETURNING TO  
THEIR BURIAL  
URNS!

THANK  
GOODNESS  
I'VE GOT  
**PROOF**  
EVERYTHING'S  
ALL RIGHT,  
JIM--**BECAUSE**  
YOUR FEATURES  
ARE NORMAL  
AGAIN!

UNCLE FRED'S GHOST  
IS STARTING TO FADE!  
IT APPEARED FOR JUST  
ONE PURPOSE, JIM--  
AND NOW IT'S RETURNING  
TO THE PEACE OF  
THE AFTERLIFE!

MY GUESS IS THAT YOUR  
UNCLE PLACED THE FANGS  
IN HIS SAFE WHEN HE  
REALIZED HE HADN'T LONG  
TO LIVE! THERE WAS JUST  
ONE CHANCE IN A MILLION  
THEY'D PIERCE HUMAN FLESH  
WHILE THEY WERE STRUNG  
TOGETHER IN A NECKLACE--  
**BUT HE WASN'T TAKING  
ANY CHANCES!**

A LOT OF THE NIGHT'S  
TERROR WOULD HAVE  
BEEN BEARABLE, JIM--  
IF WE ONLY KNEW THE  
REASON **THEN!** UNCLE  
FRED'S GHOST **KNEW**  
THE NECKLACE WAS  
DANGEROUS--AND  
THAT'S WHY IT TRIED  
TO TAKE THOSE  
HORRIBLE FANGS  
AWAY FROM US!

YEP, AND **THEN** IT LED US  
TO THE CELLAR--KNOWING  
THE DEAD WOULD MOAN A  
WARNING WHEN THEY SENSED  
THE PRESENCE OF THE FANGS  
OF THE FIEND! BUT ONLY ONE  
THING COULD MAKE THOSE  
URNS YIELD WHAT THEY HELD--  
WHEN THE WEREWOLF FINALLY  
TOOK SHAPE--AND WAS  
TRICKED INTO PURSUING US  
TO A PLACE OCCUPIED BY  
THE HIDDEN DEAD!

The  
END

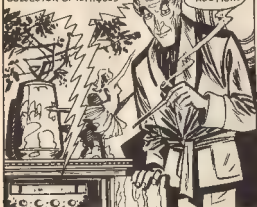
# MIRROR DOOM



IN THE HOME OF JOHN FORSYTHE, WEALTHY ANTIQUE COLLECTOR...

...AND NOW FOR NEWS AT HOME - THE ART WORLD WAS GRIEVED TO LEARN OF THE DEATH OF SILAS LUNDIGAN, WORLD FAMOUS COLLECTOR OF ANTIQUES -

TOO BAD! BUT THIS MEANS I'LL BE ABLE TO BID ON SOME ITEMS IN HIS COLLECTION WHEN THEY COME UP FOR AUCTION!



WEEKS LATER, AT THE AUCTION -

...AND NOW, THIS MEDIEVAL MIRROR, REPUTEDLY CONSTRUCTED BY ALBERTUS MAGNUS, THE GREAT MYSTIC OF THE DARK AGES! WHAT AM I BID?

ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS!

OH, OH... SOMEONE ELSE WANTS THAT MIRROR - BUT HE'S NOT GOING TO OUTBID ME!

FIVE THOUSAND!



AS THE SPIRITED BIDDING IS CONCLUDED...

GOING ONCE... GOING TWICE... **SOLD TO MR. JOHN FORSYTHE FOR \$32,000!**

BAH... THE FILTHY RICH GET EVERYTHING!



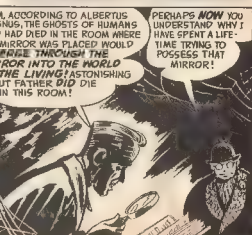
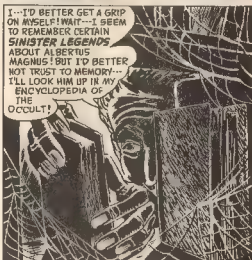
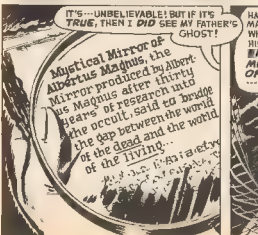
OUTSIDE...

I'VE SPENT YEARS TRYING TO GET THAT MIRROR, AND I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP NOW!

BE GONE, MY GOOD MAN!... CAREFUL WITH THAT MIRROR, HAWKING!

YES, SIR!





YOU! HOW DID YOU GET PAST MY GATEMAN?

NEVER FEAR---I DIDN'T HIT HIM TOO HARD! I CAME TO OFFER YOU UNTOLD POWER---IF YOU ALLOW MY GENIUS TO GUIDE YOU IN THE USE OF THE MIRROR! WITH YOUR INFLUENCE, IT SHOULD BE EASY FOR YOU TO GET A PASS TO WITNESS THE NEXT ELECTROCUTION IN THE STATE PRISON--AND THINK WHAT IT WILL MEAN IF YOU BRING THE MIRROR WITH YOU!

THE MOST VICIOUS MURDERERS OF OUR TIME WOULD PASS THROUGH THE MIRROR INTO OUR WORLD! THEY'LL OBEY US---SINCE WE CAN RETURN THEM TO THE LIMBO OF NOTRINONESS BY SMASHING THE MIRROR! THEN WE'LL GO ON, TO RESURRECT OTHER FIENDISH KILLERS---UNTIL WE'VE AMASSED AN ARMY OF THE MOST EVIL GHOSTS IN HISTORY---AN ARMY THAT CAN MAKE YOU AND ME RULERS OF THE EARTH!

YOU'RE...MAD!

I INTEND TO USE THIS MIRROR FOR GOOD PURPOSES! NOW THAT I KNOW ITS POWERS, I'M GOING TO TAKE A ROOM AT THE MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL--AND LET THE GHOSTS OF ALL THE POOR UNFORTUNATES WHO DIED THERE COME BACK TO LIFE! THEN I'LL TOUR THE WORLD--AND SUMMON BACK THE GREAT GENIUSES WHO HELPED MAKE THIS A BETTER WORLD TO LIVE IN! NOW GET OUT--AND DON'T COME BACK!

VERY WELL, FOOL---BUT WE WILL MEET AGAIN!

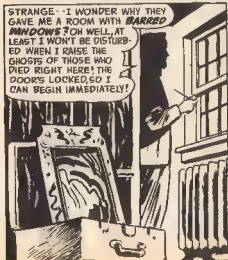
HELLO, MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL? THIS IS JOHN FORSYTHE---I'D LIKE TO RESERVE A PRIVATE ROOM FOR TOMORROW NIGHT---I'LL WANT A COMPLETE MEDICAL CHECKUP IN THE MORNING!

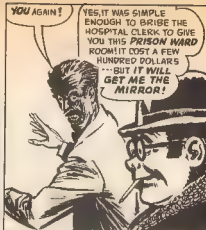
VERY GOOD SIR!

NEXT NIGHT, AT THE MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL--

STRANGE--I WONDER WHY THEY GAVE ME A ROOM WITH BARRED WINDOWS? OH WELL, AT LEAST I WON'T BE DISTURBED WHEN I RAISE THE GHOSTS OF THOSE WHO DIED RIGHT HERE! THE DOOR'S LOCKED, SO I CAN BEGIN IMMEDIATELY!

AH, SOMETHING'S COMING UP FROM BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE MIRROR! BUT WAIT--THAT FACE THAT'S TAKING SHAPE--IT'S HIDEOUSLY EVIL!





**A** S THE GHOST OF THE MANIAC LUNGES MURDEROUSLY...



**B** UT AS THE GHOST DROPS THE LIFELESS BODY OF HIS VICTIM, AND TURNS MURDEROUSLY...



**B** UT LOGICAL REASONING HAD NO EFFECT ON THE GHOST OF A RAVING MANIAC WITH A SUDDEN LUNGE...



**W** HEN THE POLICE ARRIVED...



**W** HAT MIRROR WAS SOLD AT AUCTION, READER... BUT NO ONE KNOWS WHERE IT IS TODAY! SO IF YOU HAPPEN TO SEE AN ANCIENT MIRROR LIKE THE ONE BELOW IN THE WINDOW OF SOME ANTIQUE SHOP... BEWARE!



# WEREWOLVES of the ROCKIES

It is reported that in the last century, a werewolf entered this country from Europe! Traced to the trackless forests of the Rocky Mountains, the brute disappeared, and, it is assumed, died! Now, at last, after months of research, this magazine dares to reveal what **REALLY** happened to that soulless monster! Because of the terrifying nature of these facts, all names used are fictitious.

--THE EDITOR



NUT LONG AGO, A FAMOUS SKI JUMPING CHAMPION, LARS NORDEN, WAS ON HIS WAY TO AN IMPORTANT CONTEST--

GOSH, FRIA--IF THIS TRAIN DOESN'T GO ANY FASTER, WE'LL MISS THE MEET!

WE'RE CLIMBING THE ROCKIES PROBABLY PICK UP SPEED AT THE TOP!



JUST THEN THE ENGINEER SPOTTED A FEARFUL SIGHT DEAD AHEAD--

HOLY SMOKE! LOOK THERE-- ON THE TRACKS!

STOP THE TRAIN-- QUICK!



SNOWSLIDE!-- AND ONLY FAST ACTION AVERTED A MAJOR DISASTER!

BOY! THAT WAS CLOSE!



AS THE FRIGHTENED PASSENGERS CLUSTERED BESIDE THE TRACKS--

WE'LL FREEZE IF WE DON'T GET HELP!

HMM--THERE'S A VILLAGE A DAY'S WALK FROM HERE-- BUT WE COULD NEVER REACH IT IN THIS DEEP SNOW!





BUT SNOW WAS NO BARRIER TO LARS NORDEN, CHAMPION SKIER --

FRIA AND I WILL GO-- IT'LL BE A CINCH ON SKIS!

BOOO! I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE VILLAGE-- ONLY THAT IT'S DUE SOUTH OF HERE!



THROUGH THE DARK, FORESTED HILLS SPED THE YOUNG COUPLE -- ON A PATH THAT LED TO HIDDEN TERROR!

LARS, HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW THESE DOG TRACKS SEEM TO BE HEADING TOWARD OUR DESTINATION?



YES-- ONLY THEY'RE NOT DOG TRACKS-- THEY WERE MADE BY WOLVES!

HOURS LATER-- AT LAST-- THE VILLAGE! BUT THE WOLF TRACKS-- THEY GO RIGHT INTO IT!

AND THERE'S A STRANGE ANIMAL ODOOR ABOUT THE PLACE! I DON'T LIKE IT!



BUT UNREASONING FEARS WERE LESS IMPORTANT THAN HUMAN LIVES, SO--

AS THE MEN WENT TO COLLECT SHOVELS--

-- AND WE'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D HELP US DIG A PATH THROUGH THAT SNOWSLIDE!

SURE, WE'LL HELP-- JUST LEAD THE WAY!



THERE'S SOMETHING EERIE ABOUT THIS PLACE! I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY WOMEN OR CHILDREN AROUND-- ONLY MEN!



YES-- AND THEY SEEM ALMOST HAPPY ABOUT THE STALLED TRAIN!

EAGERLY, THE VILLAGERS PUSHED INTO THE FOREST--

WAIT-- WE CAN'T MAKE IT BEFORE DARK-- WE MAY GET LOST IN THE WOODS!

DON'T WORRY! THERE'S A FULL MOON TONIGHT-- IT'LL BE LIKE DAY!



THE WORDS EXCITED THEM INTO A STRANGE, WILD CHANT--

FULL MOON TONIGHT! FULL MOON TONIGHT!-- AND A TRAINLOAD OF HELPLESS PEOPLE-- WAITING!



NOW I'M SURE THERE'S SOMETHING SCREWDY ABOUT THIS MOB-- BUT WHAT?



SOON THEY REACHED A LOW RIDGE OF SNOW, AND, UNSUSPECTING, STARTED ACROSS! SUDDENLY--

EEYOWW!  
A BLIND  
CREVASSE?

LARS? GO  
BACK!



AND NOW, LARS AND FRIA WERE SEPARATED BY A HUNDRED-FOOT DROP!

WE'LL HAVE TO  
BUILD A BRIDGE  
IN THE MORNING  
...YOU TWO GO ON  
TO THE TRAIN!

RIGHT, LARS-- BE  
CAREFUL!



WITH AN UNEASY FOREBODING OF DISASTER, LARS RETURNED TO THE STRANGE VILLAGE--

YOU'LL BE-- ER--  
SAFE IN THIS  
EMPTY CABIN  
TONIGHT!

SAFE? I'M  
BEGINNING  
TO WONDER!



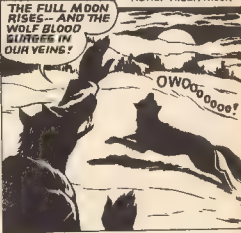
LATER--UNABLE TO SLEEP, HE CHANCED TO LOOK OUT THE WINDOW--

GOOD HEAVENS--  
I'M SEEING THINGS--  
I MUST BE!



FOR THERE, BENEATH THE PALE RAYS OF THE NEWLY-RISEN MOON--

THE FULL MOON  
RISES-- AND THE  
WOLF BLOOD  
GURGLES IN  
OUR VEINS!



THIS VILLAGE--  
IT'S A COLONY  
OF WERE-  
WOLVES--  
AND THEY'RE  
HEADED TOWARD  
THIS CABIN!

WITH ONLY SECONDS TO SPARE, LARS  
DROPPED THROUGH THE REAR WIN-  
DOW, SPED FROM THE AWFUL PLACE--

FRIA! SHE'S WITH ONE OF THOSE  
FOUL CREATURES-- SOMEWHERE  
IN THE FOREST!



AT THAT MOMENT, FRIA WAS CROSSING A MOONLIT STRETCH OF SNOW, CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY HER EVIL COMPANION--

HOW LONG WILL THAT LOVELY MOON BE UP?



RECEIVING NO ANSWER, THE GIRL TURNED, STARED AGHAST--

DID YOU HEAR ME?  
I -- OH, NO! NO!



-- WHILE FAR BEHIND, LARS CAME TO A HALT AT THE DEEP CANYON--

THEY'VE GIVEN UP THE CHASE!... I'VE GOT TO KEEP THOSE GRISLY BRUTES FROM REACHING THE TRAIN TOMORROW-- BUT HOW?



THOSE SAPLINGS! THEY'RE ALDER TREES-- ONE OF THE FEW THINGS THAT'LL KILL A WEREWOLF! AND THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA! LUCKY GRANDFATHER NORDEN USED TO TELL ME ABOUT THE WEREWOLF PACKS IN THE OLD NORTH COUNTRY!



HE ALSO WARNED THAT ANYBODY BITTEN BY A WEREWOLF TURNS INTO ONE OF THE FOUR CREATURES! I MUST BE CAREFUL!



HOURS LATER, HIS TASK FINISHED, HE RETURNED TO THE VILLAGE -- JUST AS THE SUN ROSE --

WHERE DID YOU DISAPPEAR TO?

THE MOON WAS SO BRIGHT, I-- ER-- GOT IN SOME SKIING PRACTICE FOR THE CONTEST!

WITH THE MOON GONE, THEY'VE RETURNED TO THEIR HUMAN FORM! THEY WON'T BE DANGEROUS UNTIL -- TONIGHT!



AT ONCE, THE WEREWOLF PACK GET OUT FOR THE CANYON-- AND WORK WAS BEGUN ON A BRIDGE--

HURRY-- HURRY!

IF THIS DOESN'T WORK, ALL THOSE PASSENGERS WILL BE DEAD DUCKS -- AND I'LL BE THE FIRST!



NO SOONER WAS THE NARROW, SWAYING STRUCTURE FINISHED THAN THE WEREWOLVES, LUSTING FOR THEIR HUMAN PREY, RUSHED FORWARD--



TO THE TRAIN!

OUT OF THE WAY, FOOL!

WITH THE ENTIRE PACK ON THE BRIDGE, LARS LEAPED INTO ACTION--



NOW, YOU FIENDS, DROP DEAD-- AND I'M NOT KIDDING!

SNAP!

AND NOW, THE LONG HOURS OF TOIL BORE GHASTLY FRUIT!



IN DEATH, THEY'RE REVERTING TO THEIR ANIMAL FORMS!

THERE WAS STILL THE CREVASSE TO CROSS, WITH AGONIZING DEATH WAITING BELOW! IT CALLED FOR A CHAMPION SKI JUMPER--

MADE IT! NOW TO MAKE TRACKS FOR THAT TRAIN-- AND FRIA!



THE DAY PASSED AND NIGHT FELL-- JUST AS THE WEARY LARS REACHED HIS GOAL-- ONLY TO BE MET BY HORROR!



WEREWOLVES-- TWO OF THEM! AND JUST MOVING IN TO THE ATTACK!

OBVIOUS TO DANGERS, LARS DREW THE WEREWOLVES' ATTENTION TO HIMSELF--

C'MON, YOU CREATURES FROM HADES-- PICK ON SOMEONE YOU CAN'T SCARE!



AS THE FIRST BEAST LEAPED--



CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

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the man from



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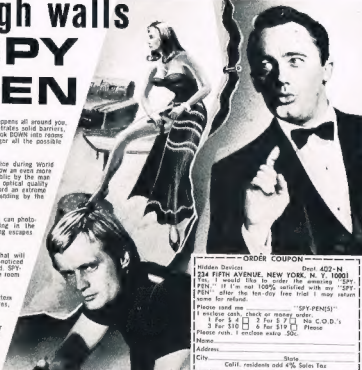
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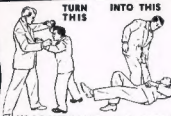
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CERTAIN THAT LARS WAS DOOMED, THE TERRIFIED  
TRAINMEN HUSTLED THE PASSENGERS ABOARD,  
BACKED THE TRAIN DOWN THE TRACKS TO SAFETY.



**SURPRISE!** I MADE THESE SKI POLES  
MYSELF -- OUT OF **ALDER WOOD**?  
NOW TO FINISH OFF YOUR FRIEND!



BUT THE FIRST WEREWOLF  
HAD DISAPPEARED--

NO WONDER! IT'S DAWN-- AND  
IT DIDN'T DARE FACE ME IN  
ITS HUMAN GUISE? I--  
WHAT'S THAT?



HALF-BURIED IN A NEARBY  
SNOWBANK--**FRIA!** PAINFULLY,  
SHE ROSE TO HER FEET--

SHE MUST HAVE FAINTED  
WHEN THOSE TWO MONSTERS  
ATTACKED?



THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE SAFE,  
DARLING! NOW LET'S GO AFTER  
THAT TRAIN-- IT CAN'T BE  
VERY FAR BACK!



UNABLE TO LOCATE FRIA'S SKIS,  
THEY RODE BACK DOUBLE--



--STILL, I CAN'T HELP  
REGRETTING THAT  
ONE WEREWOLF  
ESCAPED!

AH, BUT YOU **SHOULDN'T!**  
WHO KNOWS, YOU MAY MEET  
IT AGAIN-- **SOONER**  
THAN YOU THINK!



JHE  
END